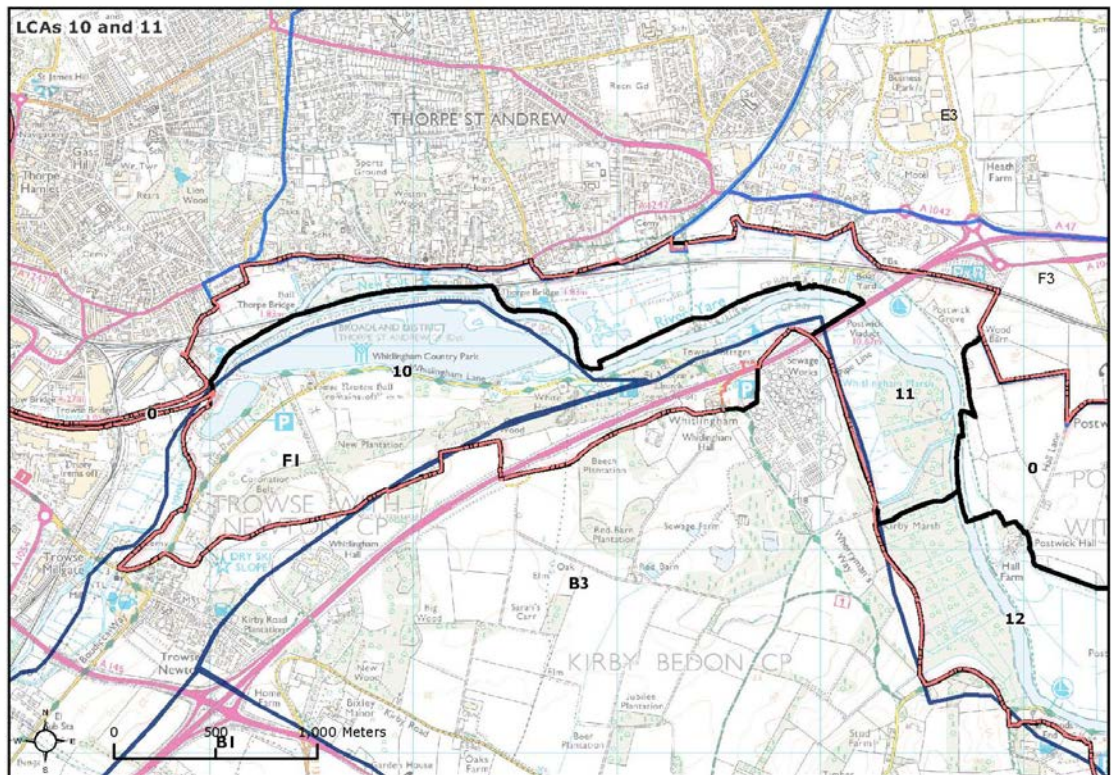


LCA 10: Yare Valley - Whitlingham Lane and Country Park, LCA 11: Local Character Area 11 - Yare Valley Cary's Meadow, Thorpe Island and Marshes, Postwick Grove and Whitlingham Marshes

Location and landscape character context



© Broads Authority 2012. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown copyright and database right 2012. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021573.

© Broads Authority 2012. Contains, or is derived from aerial photography supplied by Bluesky Ltd. © Bluesky 2004/2005

© South Norfolk District Council © Broadland District Council

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV Development

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities			
	<p>Relatively few special qualities sensitive to solar PV development are represented in this character area grouping, although the diversity of habitats in area 10 relates to a landscape pattern which would be sensitive in terms of cohesiveness to footprints introduced by solar PV development. The recreational use of both areas for boating also indicates a degree of sensitivity to solar PV in these terms. Taking the above into account, these areas have a moderate overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in terms of the special qualities.</p>		
2.Sense of openness / enclosure			
	<p>Both areas in this cluster are of medium scale and with a degree of enclosure provided by woodland within and surrounding the character areas (e.g. wood fringed broad in area 10 plus wooded south facing ridge and the wooded parklands to the south, and, in area 11, by relatively steep, well wooded valley sides). This level of enclosure decrease the sensitivity of the landscape to solar PV development, due to the potential to absorb perception of such development.</p>		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern and scale			
	<p>Area 10 lacks cohesion in terms of landscape pattern, due to severances created by transport corridors and urban edge development, whilst a diverse and more naturalistic pattern is created in area 11 due to the presence of river and riparian vegetation, areas of scrub, grassland and the nature reserve near Postwick Viaduct, albeit with contrast created by aggregate extraction, industrial sites and boatyards. Due to this mixed and partly eroded landscape pattern, landscape sensitivity to solar PV is moderate. Human scale elements introduced by the presence of features such as recreational sailing boats would be sensitive.</p>		
4.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	<p>Area 10 is defined by significant intrusions which affect experiential landscape character, such as urban fringe development at Norwich (including the bypass and Thorpe). However sense of tranquillity here is locally enhanced by the wetland environment of Whitlingham Country Park including relict parkland and Whitlingham Great Broad. The situation is similar within area 11 – sense of tranquillity and perceptual landscape character is disjointed due to the proximity to large scale settlement at Norwich, including the Postwick Viaduct which forms part of the A47 bypass.</p>		
5.Historic landscape character			
	<p>Aspects of relict historic landscape character such as parkland features associated with Trowse Newton and Whitlingham Hall would be sensitive to solar PV development footprints, as the cohesiveness of such features would potentially be vulnerable to such development. Other historic processes such as gravel extraction (which have created the Great Broad) have eroded aspects of historic landscape pattern and therefore reduced sensitivity. Some aspects of the historic character of area 11 would also be sensitive to solar PV development footprints, such as areas of 17th-20th century rectilinear grazing marsh, although sensitivity is reduced by areas of boundary loss north east of the river. Given the above, sensitivity of the historic landscape pattern is moderate overall, due to its level of fragmentation.</p>		
6.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility			
	<p>Views out from area 10 are often framed due to the wooded nature of the parkland and the embankments to the edge of Whitlingham Great Broad, although large scale development associated with the urban edge is visible from within the area (pylons and taller buildings within Norwich).</p>		

	<p>Some views are available to the settled wooded ridge to the north (within the Norwich urban area, with Broadland District character area E3 Spixworth Estate Lands beyond) and to the rising parklands to the south - intervisibility with South Norfolk District character area B3 Rockland Tributary Farmlands.</p> <p>Within area 11, many views are framed due to the meandering course of the river, the valley topography and woodland, particularly to the south. However, there is intervisibility with other landscapes outside the Broads from this area, notably to the north of the river, the wooded skylines within Broadland District character areas E3 and E4 (Spixworth Wooded Estatelands and Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands respectively), and area F3: Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe are visible.</p> <p>As such whilst there is a degree of intervisibility, due to the filtered visual character, sensitivity to solar PV in visual terms is judged moderate.</p>
--	---

Discussion on landscape sensitivity	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%; background-color: yellow;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> <p>Overall landscape sensitivity of this character area grouping to solar PV development is judged to be moderate. This is in view of disjointed landscape pattern and historic character (severances created by large scale settlement edges and by transport corridors such as the Norwich Bypass), the degree of visual containment created by valley sides and woodlands and the presence of large scale settlement edge influences to area 10 in particular. Against this are balanced sensitive features such as relict historic landscape patterns created by parkland as at Whitlingham and Trowse Newton, the coherence of which would potentially be affected by solar PV development footprints, and the sense of tranquillity within Whitlingham Country Park and the Great Broad.</p> </td> </tr> </table>					<p>Overall landscape sensitivity of this character area grouping to solar PV development is judged to be moderate. This is in view of disjointed landscape pattern and historic character (severances created by large scale settlement edges and by transport corridors such as the Norwich Bypass), the degree of visual containment created by valley sides and woodlands and the presence of large scale settlement edge influences to area 10 in particular. Against this are balanced sensitive features such as relict historic landscape patterns created by parkland as at Whitlingham and Trowse Newton, the coherence of which would potentially be affected by solar PV development footprints, and the sense of tranquillity within Whitlingham Country Park and the Great Broad.</p>			
<p>Overall landscape sensitivity of this character area grouping to solar PV development is judged to be moderate. This is in view of disjointed landscape pattern and historic character (severances created by large scale settlement edges and by transport corridors such as the Norwich Bypass), the degree of visual containment created by valley sides and woodlands and the presence of large scale settlement edge influences to area 10 in particular. Against this are balanced sensitive features such as relict historic landscape patterns created by parkland as at Whitlingham and Trowse Newton, the coherence of which would potentially be affected by solar PV development footprints, and the sense of tranquillity within Whitlingham Country Park and the Great Broad.</p>									

Sensitivity to different sizes of solar PV development	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Land within the character areas</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Land outside the Executive Area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Roof mounted requiring planning permission</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roof mounted >1 hectare</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M-H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field mounted: Small - >1 hectare</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares</td> <td style="text-align: center;">M-H</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Commentary: Landscape sensitivity to larger scale solar PV developments in the typology (e.g. roof mounted schemes up to 1 hectare) and field schemes of 1- 5 hectares would be higher due to potential visual prominence and the effect they may have on the cohesiveness and perception of the landscape pattern. Whilst sensitivity has been assigned moderate for domestic scale roof mounted PV, this would be entirely dependent on siting.</p> <p>Landscapes outside the Executive Area Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>Broadland District – E3 Spixworth Estate Lands: Only a small part of this area is intervisible with the Broads due to urban fringe development at Norwich. The wooded skylines which form the hinterland are sensitive in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>E4 Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands: Lightly settled, part wooded skylines which are intervisible with the Broads.</p> <p>F3: Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe: Fieldwork has identified few sensitive features due to low lying character.</p> <p>South Norfolk District - B3 Rockland Tributary Farmlands: Fieldwork confirmed the valley sides on</p>	Land within the character areas	Land outside the Executive Area	Roof mounted requiring planning permission	M	Roof mounted >1 hectare	M-H	Field mounted: Small - >1 hectare	M	Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	M-H
Land within the character areas	Land outside the Executive Area										
Roof mounted requiring planning permission	M										
Roof mounted >1 hectare	M-H										
Field mounted: Small - >1 hectare	M										
Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	M-H										

	<p>which Whitlingham Hall and parklands are sited, together with the mostly undeveloped, part wooded ridge, are sensitive.</p> <p>Field mounted schemes of less than 1 hectare could potentially be absorbed with landscape structure, subject to siting, reducing landscape sensitivity slightly in relation to the Broads. However, due to the visual prominence of the more elevated areas in relation to the Broads, and the potential visual prominence of the larger/more elevated solar PV typologies, landscape sensitivity of these areas in relation to the Broads would be moderate-high.</p>
--	--